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CONTEMPORARY ECHOES

WHAT WAR MEANS

(From The Indianapolis Star)

Colonel George Harvey, for one, has no doubt that we are at war, and he has a very clear idea of what is meant by war and of what we should do, being in war. Among other things he believes spies should be shot. He asks in his *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* "how long before the sentimentalists in control in Washington will awaken to the fact that we are at war?" and goes on to say: "How long must the people endure the silly chatter of the Secretary of the Navy, who preaches the doctrine of love the German as thyself, or the Secretary of War spouting Sunday school platitudes, or the polished periods of the President reiterating the fallacy that we are not at war with the German people? How many more lives must be sacrificed before the people do justice? We are at war. The German people, whom we have been implored not to hate, with devilish cunning are daily committing murder and arson, impeding military preparation by crippling factories and machinery, killing men and women without compunction. The time for sentiment has passed, the time for action has come. The spy knows the penalty when he is caught, that penalty should be swift and certain; he should be sent not before a civil court, where justice is uncertain and legal technicalities govern, but placed on trial before a court-martial, where justice and not chicanery rules; and no politico-sentimentalist should have the power to set aside the sentence. 'The sword of justice has no scabbard.' Unless we keep the blade keen and let it fall remorselessly it will be turned against ourselves. A single spy shot will deter a score, but one spy cast loose because the web of justice can not hold is the encouragement to a hundred more. And yet—can anybody picture Newton D. Baker signing a death warrant?"

Colonel Harvey says further, and declines to apologize for his words: "Our duty is to kill Germans. To the killing of Germans we must bend all our energies. We must think in terms of German dead, killed by rifles in American hands, by bombs thrown by American youths, by shells fired by American gunners. The more Germans we kill, the fewer American graves there will be in France; the more Germans we kill, the less danger to our wives and daughters; the more Germans we kill, the sooner we shall welcome home our gallant lads. Nothing else now counts. There is no thought other than this, no activity apart from the duty forced upon us by Germany. The most highly civilized nations are united as they never were before, actuated by the same impulse. In England, France and Italy, among the English speaking peoples of the

new world, under the Southern Cross and on the torrid plains, they, like us, see their duty clear. It is, we repeat, to kill Germans."

The colonel's words sound brutal, but killing is what war means and, in spite of our growing army and of our wealth poured out like water, and of our food conservation and all the rest, many of our people still cherish the pacifist notion that the war will somehow end before we get far enough into it to do so wicked a thing as to kill a man.

WE ARE INTERPRETED

(*From The San Francisco Bulletin*)

The privileged classes, as vouched for by Colonel George Harvey, the editor of the most snobbish magazine in America, believe about as follows:

1. Our "war aims" must not be stated. To do so would be intelligent and in war time we must not be intelligent. Besides, it might shorten the war. (However, Mr. Wilson has stated them.)

2. We are not fighting this war "to make the world safe for democracy." (However, President Wilson says we are, and ninety-nine and forty-four hundredths per cent of the Americans who are doing the fighting and working think we are.)

3. We must not try to separate the German people from the German government nor the Austrian people from the German people. We must simply kill Germans. To admit that the masses in Germany and Austria are human beings capable of thought might lead to the same claim being made for the masses in this country. (However, President Wilson has already admitted as much.)

With these three articles of faith there goes a further belief that what the masses in the United States need is discipline, and that what the Government needs is more iron in its system, together with a sneaking suspicion that the German way of handling the common people is rather clever, after all. As a writer in the New York *Public* imagines them saying to one another:

"After all, you've got to hand it to Germany. They manage these things supremely well. No nonsense with labor agitators, and a fellow like Baker wouldn't last two minutes in Berlin!"

It is hardly necessary to point out the likeness between these traducers of the President, of the United States, and of the common people and that small band of plotters who are burning and destroying here and there in order to keep us from winning a war which they, too, declare is not to make the world safe for democracy.

But, between the two, stands the nation, sound and whole, and it believes that it is fighting this war for democracy, and it is fighting it for democracy. And the dust blown down the street by the afternoon breeze is not more quickly scattered than will be the human chaff which dares face the wind of human freedom which is coming roaring across the battered face of the world.

PROPAGANDA

(*From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

Colonel George Harvey thinks it is a pity we have entered the war with alluring rhetorical phrases ringing in our ears, and urges us to adopt the direction of the British Admiral who said he was in the war

to kill Germans. That is, we may not all agree that we are in the war to make the world safe for democracy, or for any other reason the definition of which can be agreed upon later. We can only agree that we are all in the war to kill the Germans before they kill us. The Colonel says in a recent issue of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*:

Our duty is to kill Germans. To the killing of Germans we must bend all our energies. We must think in terms of German dead, killed by rifles in American hands, by bombs thrown by American youths, by shells fired by American gunners. The more Germans we kill, the fewer American graves there will be in France; the more Germans we kill, the less danger to our wives and daughters; the more Germans we kill, the sooner we shall welcome home our gallant lads. Nothing else now counts. There is no thought other than this, no activity apart from the duty forced upon us by Germany. The most highly civilized nations are united as they never were before, actuated by the same impulse. In England, France and Italy, among the English-speaking peoples of the new world, under the southern cross and on the torrid plains, they like us see their duty clear. It is, we repeat, to kill Germans.

This illustrates pretty fairly, we believe, the principal advantage the Germans have over us in the war. Granting that we are equally matched in arms, the Germans are vastly superior in propaganda. Indeed, their propaganda has been in the past year the great factor in the war. It is said to have been entirely responsible for the Italian defeat, and it got in its fine work in Russia. Does the Colonel want to discard this powerful weapon and make it a walkover for the Kaiser? We think not. Nor is Mr. Wilson, who happens to be leading us, going to permit any such folly. He has seen from the beginning the necessity for definition. All the alluring rhetorical phrases of which the Colonel complains are his. If they ring in our ears, as the Colonel regrets, so much the better. We mean to ultimately make them ring in men's ears everywhere. Of course, we are going to kill Germans, but that is a consequence of having a cause. What the Colonel is trying to do is to back us into the war, and it can't be done.

THE ONLY WAY

(From The Bookseller)

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, with its war articles and broad interests presenting world events and conditions by able and far-reaching writers, has never been more interesting, more illuminating than of late. And the publishers promise a continuously better magazine. The war articles have given the magazine an impetus that has resulted in increased sales and the material to come promises to still further increase its circulation. With the recent transport disaster, with its heavy loss of life, one reads Colonel Harvey's editorial article in the February issue with a new sense of its import and agrees with that fearless and forcible writer that the only way to end this world horror is to bend every energy to killing Germans. . . .

There is another thing that dealers who are alive to their business interests should attend to and that is to order with discrimination for the newsstands near the military cantonments, forts, army posts, and railway terminal stands. Give good display to *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* for its war numbers are such as to attract all the enlisted men. This publication, always interesting, has added to its attractiveness as well as sell-

ing features by including highly interesting material bearing upon the present war. If you are not already getting this publication, you can help your business by ordering it from your news company. Place the copies on your counter where they can be seen. The magazine has a big sale at the present time.

THE MOTION IS SECONDED

(From The Lyons [N. Y.] Republican)

Colonel George Harvey, the brilliant editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW in the current number of that valuable and weighty magazine comes out in unmistakable language in a leading editorial in favor of killing the German spies. We have advocated this for the past year. We have thought all along that this Government has been too weak and sentimental and too tolerant of American traitors and German spies.

The time came long ago when German spies should have been shot in squads of twelve at sunrise in at least a dozen cities of this country. This would have had the effect to check the intrigues which have been going on and the destruction that has taken place by reason of the depredations of Germans in this country. Some Germans have not hesitated to set fire to American manufacturing plants and dynamite others and to commit every crime that they could commit which they believed would result in hindering this country in carrying forward the war to a successful termination.

These German spies are enemies that deserve death and they deserve it a hundred times more than the German soldier who stands in the line of battle and shoots at American soldiers. The German soldier who does this is fighting fair and is fighting in the open, but the spy, the sneak, the dynamiter, the assassin, who works in secret and who kills the innocent, the non-combatant, is the most despicable being on earth and the quicker every one of these slimy instruments of Germany are killed, the better it will be for this country.

We second the motion of Colonel George Harvey to kill the German spies.

AN APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING

(From The Rochester Post-Express)

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW WAR WEEKLY quotes Secretary Baker's statement of January 21st that his brother, H. D. Baker, in order to relieve the War Department of embarrassment "had generously resigned" from the Engel Aircraft Company, which has Government contracts for nearly a million dollars' worth of airplane parts, and terminated his financial interest in the concern, returning his stock holdings to the treasury. But the possibility suggests itself that the Secretary may have been misinformed as to the admirable action of his brother, for the Cleveland *Leader* of February 3d announces that Brother Baker "is still actively directing the management of the Engel Company;" and the chairman of the board of directors testifies before a Senate committee that he is still the "executive head" of the concern, will remain in that capacity indefinitely, and that a part of the common

stock—"a million dollars, maybe"—was set aside for the three original owners of whom he was one. Of course this is not a matter vital to the nation's welfare, and Brother Baker is no doubt a patriotic man and useful citizen in any capacity which affords an outlet for his energies. The only point of interest is the apparent confusion as to the facts; and perhaps Mr. Creel, chairman of the committee on public information, may clear the matter up in the *Official Bulletin* as soon as he finds time.

JUDGED

(From *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

In the vicious assault of Colonel George Harvey, editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, on the Administration over the shoulder of Secretary of War Baker is the following paragraph:

But it is not the enemy, whose ways are his own, who most concerns us. It is the Allies. And, so far as the world is informed, the Allies have no plans. Their Supreme War Council was summoned into being with a flourish of trumpets but quickly ended its first session with the sapient announcement that "unity of action" had been agreed upon. The United States was not represented officially.

What a wise thing it would have been on the part of the Supreme War Council of the Allies to have informed the world, including our enemies, concerning their war plans. What more could the council say with the least regard for prudence except that "unity of action" had been agreed upon?

The Colonel made a fool crack in that paragraph. Perhaps his whole assault may be judged by it.

OUR DEAD IN CAMPS

(From *Life*)

George Harvey in his WAR WEEKLY says we ought to pay more honor to our war-dead who die at home.

The names of those who die in France have been published, he says, in the *Official Bulletin*, but for ten times as many who have given their lives in camps at home there has been no roll of honor.

He thinks that if the *Official Bulletin* won't print their names, the other Government paper, the *Congressional Record*, ought to do it.

There is no doubt that the men who have died in camps at home as well deserve honor as those who have died abroad. But would anybody care, except Colonel Harvey, whether their names were published in the *Official Bulletin* or the *Congressional Record*? Does anyone but Colonel Harvey ever peruse either of those periodicals? Would anyone else know whose names were in them?

It may be they are read in newspaper offices, and that their lists, if they had them, would be copied in the daily press. If so, so do.

The death of a soldier in training camp is as sad as the death of a woman in child-birth. It is death at the threshold of adventure. Colonel Harvey is right. The roll of honor of our men who die for the war at home should be as carefully kept and published as the roll of those who die abroad.

THE PEOPLE PAY

(From The Boston Evening Transcript)

More than a month ago an appeal was made to the American Congress in the name of the American people, by Colonel George Harvey, for the publication in the *Congressional Record* of "the names of all American soldiers who have already given their lives to their country" and that the Record "inscribe daily thereafter the names of the thousands who are yet to die on the nation's roll of honor, to the end that the splendid sons of the great Republic shall not pass into the beyond 'unwept, unhonored and unsung.'" If the people as a whole endorse that appeal the Administration never lived and does not live today that would dare to turn a deaf ear. It is not the War Department, much less the Committee on Public Information, which is paying the cost of this war in life and treasure, sorrow and sacrifice. It is the people. If it does not help the enemy to know the home address of a British tommy or a French poilu, why should it help him to know the town and State and next of kin of a Yankee who dies anywhere along the American front that stretches from Manila to Lorraine?

THE SAVING GRACE

(From the Kennebec Journal)

Colonel George Harvey, who went down to Princeton University a few years ago and discovered Professor Woodrow Wilson and dragged him forth into the limelight, shouting: "Here is your candidate for President," has made another discovery. This time it is the deplorable, almost unforgivable weakness of the aggregation in Washington now sitting on the destinies of this nation. In this month's NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW Colonel Harvey, who is its editor, publishes a scathing denunciation of the partisanship of the Administration, of its failure to care for the soldiers entrusted to it by the country, and especially of its failure to show proper recognition to the thousands of loyal young men who have died in this country's training camps, most of them largely because of red tape, lack of camp preparation for them, and wholly inadequate care. The arraignment in Colonel Harvey's own inimitable way is bitter in the extreme, but has the saving grace, we hope, of jarring Congress into taking action which he suggests for a roll of honor for our dead who were denied the opportunity to go farther than the training camps to fight for their country.